



General Assembly

**Senate Joint
Resolution No.46**

January Session, 2005

LCO No. 4491

04491_____

Referred to Committee on No Committee

Introduced by:

SEN. WILLIAMS, 29th Dist.
SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.
SEN. DELUCA, 32nd Dist.
SEN. FONFARA, 1st Dist.
SEN. COLEMAN, 2nd Dist.
SEN. HARP, 10th Dist.
SEN. NEWTON, 23rd Dist.
REP. AMANN, 118th Dist.
REP. DONOVAN, 84th Dist.
REP. WARD, 86th Dist.
REP. GREEN, 1st Dist.

REP. GONZALEZ, 3rd Dist.
REP. MANTILLA, 4th Dist.
REP. KIRKLEY-BEY, 5th Dist.
REP. FELTMAN, 6th Dist.
REP. MCCRORY, 7th Dist.
REP. CLEMONS, 124th Dist.
REP. DYSON, 94th Dist.
REP. BEAMON, 72nd Dist.
REP. WALLACE, 109th Dist.
REP. MARTINEZ, 128th Dist.

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SYMPATHY ON THE DEATH OF BOCE
W. BARLOW, JR.**

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 WHEREAS, Boce W. Barlow, Jr. died on January 31, 2005, at the age
2 of 89; and

3 WHEREAS, he served as the first African-American State Senator in
4 Connecticut, from 1967 to 1970, representing the people of the second
5 Senatorial District in the City of Hartford; and

6 WHEREAS, during his service in the General Assembly, he

7 exercised leadership during the turbulent late 1960s, earning the
8 respect of his colleagues by "sheer force of intellect and humanity", and
9 helping to write some of the state's pioneering civil rights laws; and he
10 chaired the Corrections Committee, and served on the Committees on
11 Claims, General Law, Human Rights and Opportunities,
12 Incorporations, Judiciary and Governmental Functions, and Public
13 Personnel; and

14 WHEREAS, he was born in Americus, Georgia, in 1915 and grew up
15 in Hartford, graduating from Hartford Public High School in 1933; and

16 WHEREAS, he graduated cum laude, with a major in political
17 science, from Howard University in 1939, where he was president of
18 the senior class; and graduated from Harvard Law School in 1949, with
19 a doctorate in jurisprudence degree; and

20 WHEREAS, he served in the United States Army from 1943 to 1946,
21 in the South Pacific Theater; and

22 WHEREAS, in 1949, when Hartford law firms were not hiring
23 African-American attorneys, he began his own law firm, and then also
24 served as a hearing examiner for the State Civil Rights Commission
25 from 1955 to 1957, and as prosecutor for the Hartford Municipal Court
26 from 1957 to 1960; and

27 WHEREAS, in 1957, at the age of 42, he became the first African-
28 American in the history of Connecticut appointed as a judge in the
29 Municipal Courts, where he is remembered for his decisions that
30 extended the constitutional protections of the Bill of Rights to the
31 general public long before the Warren Court decided that these rights
32 applied to the states; and

33 WHEREAS, in 1968, he was a delegate to the Democratic National
34 Convention in Chicago; and

35 WHEREAS, in 1981, as the result of a surgical error, he became an
36 incomplete quadriplegic and unable to use the then-inaccessible

37 courthouses and other government buildings, and he engaged in three
38 years of intense physical rehabilitation before he could return to public
39 involvement; and

40 WHEREAS, he was a dedicated member of numerous organizations,
41 including the NAACP, of which he was a life time member, the
42 Connecticut Bar Association, George W. Crawford Law Association,
43 Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Ashanti of Connecticut, Faith
44 Congregational Church, Charter Oak Lodge of Elks No. 67, IBPOE of
45 W., Inc., of which he was Past Exalted Ruler, Excelsior Lodge #3 F. &
46 M., the Board of Directors of the Connecticut State Prisons, the Board
47 of Trustees of the Connecticut Junior Republic, the Board of Trustees of
48 Faith Congregational Church, Hartford Associate Board and Hartford
49 Region Associate Board of the Connecticut Bank and Trust Company,
50 Democratic State Central Committee of Connecticut, the Hartford
51 Democratic Town Committee, the Hartford Democratic Club, of which
52 he was past president, and the Connecticut State Federation of Black
53 Democratic Clubs; and

54 WHEREAS, during his eminent career, he remained active in
55 politics and served as a mentor to younger people, remembered fondly
56 by a member of his law firm as "a great mentor, and, professionally, I
57 would have to call him my dad", remembered by the former fire chief
58 of Hartford for advising him always to be the best he could, and
59 remembered by a former political opponent and friend as a person
60 who was a strong advocate without creating enemies; and

61 WHEREAS, he is described by his daughter, Cathy, as a man who
62 "believed that you should be paying your civic rent, that for the luxury
63 of being here, you should be contributing, and you should be doing for
64 others, not just for yourself"; and

65 WHEREAS, he received numerous civic awards during his life,
66 including the Nathan Hale Award for distinction in trial advocacy
67 from the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association in 1986; the George W.
68 Crawford Award for leadership in the field of justice in 1988; the

69 Nation Builder Award from the National Black Caucus of State
70 Legislators in 1991; the Black Men's Society of Hartford Excellence
71 Award in 1992; the John E. Rogers History Makers Award in 1998; and
72 the Law Day Award for his commitment to equal opportunity and
73 inclusion of all from the Supreme Court of Connecticut in 2004; and

74 WHEREAS, in 1987, as a tribute to the respect and affection that the
75 people of the City of Hartford felt for him, the City named a street,
76 Boce Barlow Way, in his honor, which road and overpass in the north
77 end of Hartford connects a then-emerging North Meadows with
78 Windsor and North Main Streets, recognized as an appropriate
79 recognition for a man whose "way" was patient, determined and
80 committed to bringing together the diverse people of the City of
81 Hartford; and

82 WHEREAS, above all, he was a devoted and loving family man,
83 described by his daughter, Cathy, as "Father, with a capital F"; and

84 WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Catherine Swanson Barlow
85 of Silver Spring, Maryland; his daughter, Cathy A. Barlow of
86 Philadelphia; his son, Bryon S. Barlow of Adelphi, Maryland; two
87 granddaughters, Danielle Barlow and Lauren Barlow of Adelphi,
88 Maryland; his sister, Katherine B. Clark of Jamaica, New York; a niece,
89 Miltrez Vanagher of New Castle, Delaware; two nephews, Goode S.
90 Clark and Kevin Clark of Jamaica, New York; a godson, Guy Barlow
91 Jacobs of Windsor; two goddaughters, Gwendolyn Dale Simmons of
92 Teaneck, New Jersey, and Susan Bailey of St. Albans, New York; and a
93 host of beloved relatives and friends.

94 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut
95 General Assembly expresses its sincere and heartfelt condolences on
96 the death of Boce W. Barlow, Jr., friend and former colleague, whose
97 death is a profound loss to the General Assembly, his friends and
98 family, the City of Hartford, and the State of Connecticut; and

99 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerks of the Senate and the

100 House of Representatives cause a copy of this resolution to be sent to
101 the family of Boce W. Barlow, Jr. as an expression of the high esteem
102 and affection in which he was held.